

REMARKS

This Supplemental Amendment is in follow-up to the Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.111 filed on June 17, 2004. Claims 1-7 and 9-43 are currently pending, claims 20-43 have been withdrawn, claims 44 and 45 have been added, and claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9-12, and 14-19 have been amended.

Applicant's claim 1, as currently amended, recites "an electrically-insulated vacuum distribution baffle." Applicant hereby incorporates by reference the remarks submitted in the Amendment filed on June 17, 2004 that support the patentability of claim 1 over the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 5,660,744 (Sekine). Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1, and claims 2 and 5 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Sekine be withdrawn.

Applicant's claim 1, as currently amended, further recites "a powered electrode electrically connected to said plasma excitation source and said workpiece-holding portion and positioned between said vacuum distribution baffle and said workpiece holding portion, said vacuum distribution baffle positioned between said powered electrode and said vacuum port to electrically shield said powered electrode from said chamber." Applicant hereby incorporates by reference the remarks submitted in the Amendment filed on June 17, 2004 that support the patentability of claim 1 over Sekine in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,919,332 (Koshiishi). Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of original dependent claim 8, which contained language now found in amended claim 1, over Sekine in view of Koshiishi be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this

effect is earnestly solicited. If there is any additional matter that may be resolved by telephone or fax, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this response. However, if such petition is due or any other fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to deposit account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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